

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 4, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## House Resolution

No. 16

### Introduced by Assembly Member Santiago

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Perea, Quirk, Rendon, Rodriguez, Salas, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

April 15, 2015

House Resolution No. 16—Relative to Cinco de Mayo Week.

- 1 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo, or the fifth of May, is
- 2 memorialized as a significant date in the history of California and
- 3 Mexico in recognition of the courage of the Mexican people, who
- 4 defeated a better trained and equipped army at the “Batalla de
- 5 Puebla”; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Since the beginning of the American Civil War,
- 7 Latinos in California have shown their support for the institutions
- 8 of freedom and democracy by joining the forces of the United
- 9 States Army, Cavalry, and Navy, risking their lives to defend free
- 10 institutions; and

1 WHEREAS, Those who were unable to join the Armed Forces  
2 of the Union freely offered their support for President Abraham  
3 Lincoln; and

4 WHEREAS, The American Civil War, making it impossible  
5 for the United States to enforce the Monroe Doctrine, provided an  
6 opportunity for the Emperor of France, Napoléon III, to establish  
7 a monarchy in Mexico, thereby attempting to destroy democratic  
8 institutions that derive their power from the consent of the  
9 governed; and

10 WHEREAS, Latinos, including Californians, also offered their  
11 support and risked their lives in Mexico to defend freedom and  
12 democracy in that country by joining the armed forces of that sister  
13 republic; and

14 WHEREAS, Those who were unable to travel to Mexico to  
15 physically defend free institutions freely offered their support to  
16 President Benito Juárez by organizing over 122 Juntas Patrióticas  
17 Mexicanas within California to raise funds that were sent every  
18 month from California to Mexico to defray the costs of war in that  
19 country; and

20 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo serves to remind us that the  
21 foundation of any nation and our state is its people, in their spirit  
22 and courage in the face of adversity, in the strength of their drive  
23 to achieve self-determination, and in their willingness to sacrifice  
24 even life itself in the pursuit of freedom and liberty; and

25 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo offers an opportunity to reflect on  
26 the courage and achievements not only of the Mexican forces at  
27 Puebla, but also on the courage and achievements of Latinos here  
28 in California; and

29 WHEREAS, Achievements by Latinos in America and  
30 California include contributions to all facets of our community;  
31 and

32 WHEREAS, Latino voters continue to go to the polls in record  
33 numbers and influence the entrance of newly elected Latino public  
34 officials in both the Democratic and Republican parties and  
35 influence issues that encompass providing affordable housing,  
36 investing in our children, ensuring that higher education is  
37 affordable and accessible, creating good paying jobs for working  
38 families, and improving the overall quality of life for all  
39 Californians; and

1 WHEREAS, California's Latinos have contributed to the state's  
2 culture and society through their many achievements in music,  
3 food, dance, poetry, literature, architecture, entertainment, sports,  
4 and a broad spectrum of artistic expression; and

5 WHEREAS, Latinos in California have challenged the frontiers  
6 of social and economic justice, thereby improving the working  
7 conditions and lives of countless Californians; and

8 WHEREAS, Latino entrepreneurs in the United States are the  
9 fastest growing group of business owners in our economy; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2001, the Latino Caucus saw a need to recognize  
11 and honor distinguished Latinos for their contributions and  
12 dedication to California and the United States' economy and  
13 cultural life with the annual Latino Spirit Awards. These recipients  
14 are outstanding individuals who have greatly contributed to the  
15 wonderful music, poetry, literature, journalism, and entertainment  
16 of California, the United States, and the world; now, therefore, be  
17 it

18 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the  
19 Assembly urges all Californians to join in celebrating Cinco de  
20 Mayo, the historic day when the Mexican people defeated the  
21 French army at the Batalla de Puebla, and to recognize the Latino  
22 noncombatants in California who freely gave their votes and  
23 resources to defend free institutions, and the Latinos of California  
24 who fought to defend the freedom of the United States in every  
25 armed conflict from the Spanish American War to the current  
26 conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Assembly declares May 4 through May 8,  
28 2015, as Cinco de Mayo Week; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
30 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.